Promotion of Two-Child Norm

2266. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by his Ministry to promote the Two-Child Norm in pursuance of achieving the average total fertility of 2.1 by the year 2010;

(b) whether any meeting of the Chief Ministers of all States has been held or proposed to be held for arriving at some consensus so as to achieve the goal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National Population Policy adopted by Government of India in February, 2000 advocates for adoption of small family norm. The Family Welfare Programme in India is voluntary in nature, which enables a couple to adopt the family planning, methods, best suited to them, according to their choice, without any compulsion. They free to decide about the size of the family. Therefore, the policy of the Government is to promote small family norm without prescribing for any number of children. In order to achieve the average total fertility of 2.1 by the year 2010, Government has decided to address child survival issues, maternal health issues and contraception issues simultaneously and effectively. It is only when children are healthy and their longevity is assured, those parents begin considering limiting the size of family. In turn, the health of the mother is key in ensuring the survival and well being of children. For these reasons, the Family Welfare Programme seeks to address these three issues simultaneously.

(b) and (c) Chief Ministers of all the States are Members of the National Commission on Population (NCP). The first meeting of the NCP was presided by Prime Minister. Major decisions taken in the first meeting of NCP are:

(1) Setting up of an Empowered Action Group for preparing area specific programme with special emphasis on States that have

been lagging behind in containing population growth to manageable limits;

(2) Creation of National Population Stabilisation Fund to provide a window for canalizing monies from national voluntary sources to specifically aid projects designed to contribute to population stabilisation;

(3) Constitution of various Working Groups/Task Force to provide more focus and professional inputs for population stabilisation.

Survey on AIDS

2267. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the recent survey conducted by specialized group including experts belonging to UNAIDS and WHO revealed that the AIDS in the country is on decline;

(b) if so, the details of the survey;

(c) the effective steps his Ministry is taking to reduce the deadly disease to the minimum level; and

(d) the steps, the NACO is taking to educate the people with regard to AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per the analysis of HIV Sentinel Surveillance data 2001, it is estimated that there are 3.97 million HIV infections in the country. The estimated number of adults living with HIV in India for 1998, 1999 and 2000 were 3.5 million, 3.7 million and 3.8 million respectively. The estimated number of added infections since the last round of surveillance is" 110,000 compared with 160,000 in the previous year.

In order to prevent and control of HIV/aids, a comprehensive Programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The main components consist of:-

> Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by